

# The Sustainability Academy Newsletter

## January 29th, 2016



### Important Dates:

February 1st - Parent Coffee in Teacher's Room 8:30am - 9:30am

February 1st - PTO meeting 5:45pm - 7:30pm

February 3rd - Winter Walk Day 7:45am - 8:10am

February 12th - Community Dinner 5:45pm - 7:30pm

February 19th - 2nd trimester report cards go home

February 22nd - March 1st - Winter Break no school



If you are interested in coming to sit or to have lunch with your child please feel free to do so. Below is the lunch schedule:

Kindergarten 11:30 - 11:55

1st grade 11:35 - 12:00

2nd & 3rd grade 12:35 - 1:00

4th & 5th grade 12:05 - 12:30

The cost of lunch for an adult is \$3.75

### Kindergarten Registration

Enrollment for the next school year 2016-17, is open. Registration forms will be accepted beginning **January 4th 2016 till February 19th, 2016**. School placement notification will be sent out the week of

**April 4, 2016.** If there are more first choice registrations than there are spots, we will look at families' 2nd choices. When a student doesn't receive their first choice school, a district employee will contact the family to discuss their options for schools. Applications received after **February 20, 2016** will be considered based upon available space.

**SA Tour dates:**

Tuesday, February 2 - 5:30pm - 6:30 p.m  
Wednesday, February 3 - 9:00am - 10:00 a.m  
Thursday, February 11 - 5:30pm - 6:30 p.m  
Tuesday, February 16 - 8:30am - 9:30 a.m



**Winter Walk Day**



Is on **Wednesday, February 3rd!** Ms. Pariseau and Mrs. Weishaar will be hosting a special Wednesday Morning Move It! from **7:45-8:10**. The best part? Your laps will be added to your Morning Move It! total! What...you have never tried it? Winter Walk Day is the perfect time for you to **"Move It!"** We are encouraging each class to take a walking lap together right after the bell rings before heading inside to get learning! We can begin with the Kindergartners and add on in grade order.

**Bonus: Mrs. Pariseau is creating awards to hand out to our movers!!**



**GIRLS ON THE RUN!**



**inspiring girls to be  
healthy and confident**

Girls on the Run is returning to Sustainability Academy and we need COACHES!

Over a period of 12 weeks, girls in the 3rd through 5th grade participate in an after-school program like no other. Designed to allow every girl to recognize her inner strength, the Girls on the Run curriculum inspires girls to define their lives on their own terms. Throughout the season, the girls make new friends, build their confidence and celebrate all that makes them unique.

The Girls on the Run lessons encourage positive emotional, social, mental and physical development. Participants explore and discuss their own beliefs around experiences and challenges girls face at this age. They also develop important strategies and skills to help them navigate life experiences. We start with helping the girls get a better understanding of who they are and what's important to them. Then, we look at

the importance of teamwork and healthy relationships. And, finally, the girls explore how they can positively connect with and shape the world.

Physical activity is woven into our program to inspire an appreciation of fitness and to build habits that lead to a lifetime of health. At the end of each three month session, the girls participate in a Girls on the Run 5k event. This celebratory, non-competitive event is the culminating experience of the curriculum. Completing the 5k gives the girls a tangible understanding of the confidence that comes through accomplishment as well as a framework for setting and achieving life goals. Crossing the finish line is a defining moment when the girls realize that even the seemingly impossible IS possible.

GOTR is a spring program that starts at the end of March and runs through the first week of June. Sessions meet twice a week for 90 minutes each. You do not need to have running experience to coach!

REGISTER HERE:

<http://girlsontherunvermont.org/coach-registration/>

We appreciate our GOTR coaches for their time, energy and dedication to this program!

Contact Rachel Desautels, Program Coordinator, at [Rachel@girlsontherunvermont.org](mailto:Rachel@girlsontherunvermont.org) or 802.503.7097 for more information.

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### **2016 Penguin Plunge for Special Olympics Vermont**

The Penguin Plunge is a fun event to help people who have disabilities to compete in the olympics. The event takes place on **February 6th at 11:00** the lake. It is a lot of fun! If you are interested in jumping then talk to your teacher or parents and they can help you sign up online.

**Step one:** Go to Cool Schools-2016 Penguin Plunge and find the SA Polar Bears.

**Step Two:** Click to join the team or donate to the team.

**Step Three:** Raise as much money as you can online or by talking to your friends and family. (You need to raise \$150 to jump.)

*Submission by Emmett and Sophie*

*For more info contact Emmett or Sophie in Ms. Smith's room.*

*Hope to see you there!*

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### **Winter Vacation Days**

Sponsored by the Green Mountain Audubon Center

Tuesday, February 23: On Your Trail: Tracks, Scat and Animal Signs

Thursday, February 25: Snow Spectacular

Friday, February 26: Winter Forts and Fires

Tuesday, March 1: Bird-Friendly Maple Sugaring

grades K-5 8:30am - 3:30pm \$65/day

to register: 802-434-3068 [vermont@audubon.org](mailto:vermont@audubon.org)



January 25, 2016

Re: Superintendent Update

Happy New Year Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

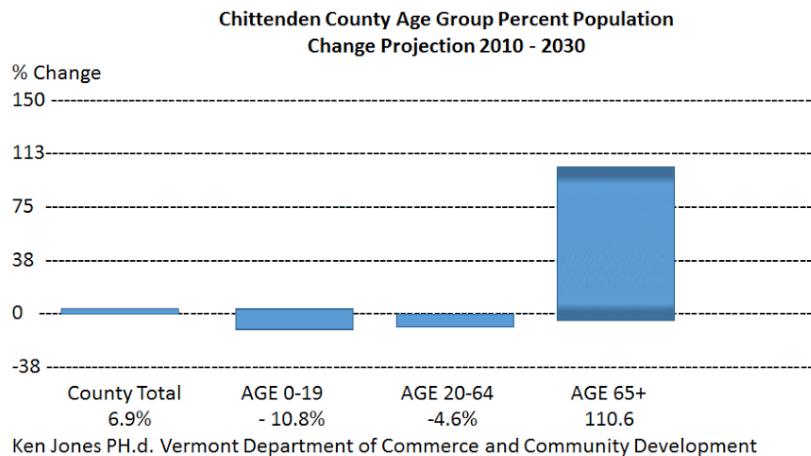
It has been a great start to the New Year.

- ✓ School Board approved and adopted FY17 Proposed Budget: School Year 2016- 2017 (Met ACT 46 requirements - NO DOUBLE TAX for taxpayers)
- ✓ External Auditors present positive report for FY15 Budget (last year) – NO DEFICIT (Demonstrating our financial practices are moving in a positive direction)

Allow me to share my gratitude to the parents, individuals, staff and organizations who communicated all sides of several issues throughout the budget process. It certainly gave us a great deal to consider and a sense of community perceptions. The challenge of finding 2.5 million dollars in an organization that has had recent reductions is difficult, and with the added restrictions and parameters of Act 46, it makes this an exceedingly arduous task.

You may rest assured that our decisions are based on data, experience, identified priorities and effective school/organization principles. As we move from this approval phase to our implementation phase (late February – March), we will provide additional details.

I would like to share some data to illustrate how we analyze societal impacts down to the school level. The chart below demonstrates a trend that is occurring and will continue to trend in Vermont, Chittenden County and Burlington. The percentage of school age children Age 0-19 is decreasing at a rate of -10.8%. The largest cohort group is Age 65+. Burlington School District has only been able to plateau in school age growth, due to the fortunate opportunities of refugee influx and immigration.



(cont.)

**YAW OBENG – SUPERINTENDENT**

An example of how this data is reflected at the school level is found at Burlington High School.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Student Enrollment</u>
2008	1,100
Jan 22, 2016	<u>990</u>
Net Difference	<b>-110 Students</b>

We need to be able to make adjustments to reflect our reality, while simultaneously delivering offerings for students to graduate and find their college and career pathways. This proposed budget allows us to do this and also sets the stage for our Strategic Multi-Year Planning beginning this spring, which will determine what the priorities should be going forward. Bring your thoughts, ideas and voices.



Yaw Obeng  
Superintendent, Burlington School District

—————**YAW OBENG – SUPERINTENDENT**—————